

Message Text

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21

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, UR

SUBJECT: GDR PRESS REACTION TO SOVIET-GDR TREATY

1. THE GDR-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND
MUTUAL ASSISTANCE SIGNED IN MOSCOW ON THE GDR'S 26TH ANNIVERSARY
OCTOBER 7 HAS RECEIVED BANNER HADLINE COVERAGE IN GDR PRESS
AND MEDIA. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND DEVOTED ENTIRE FRONT PAGE TO
TREATY TEXT OCTOBER 8 WITH PICTURE OF SIGNING CEREMONY. TEXTS
OF SPEECHES BY CHAIRMAN OF GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SINDERMANN,
CHAIRMAN OF GDR COUNCIL OF STATE STOPH, AND CHAIRMAN OF SOVIET
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS KOSYGIN HONORING THE NEW TREATY WERE
CARRIED IN FULL IN THE SAME EDITION.

2. OCTOBER 9 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL TITLED
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"TREATY OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE" DOES NOT VENTURE FAR FROM

BASIC TEXT OF TREATY. IT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS OF GDR ADULATION OF SOVIETS BY STATING THAT A "BROTHERLY BOND" WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS BUILT INTO THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE GDR CONSTITUTING THE "INALIENABLE NATURE OF ITS BEING". THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THE NEW TREATY RAISES THIS BROTHERLY BOND TO A "NEW DIMENSIONS" TO THE "BROTHERLY COMMUNITY" THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR. ACCORDINGLY, RELATIONS WILL BE EXPANDED IN ALL AREAS: ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, IN CONTACTS BETWEEN THE WORKING CLASSES OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AND IN COMMON FOREIGN POLICY.

3. THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE NEW TREATY CORRESPONDS TO THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY OF STATE AND SERVES THE GOAL OF DRAWING THEM STILL CLOSER TOGETHER. THUS, THE EDITORIAL POINTS OUT, ONE ARTICLE OF THE TREATY MENTIONS THE COMMON OBLIGATION TO FORWARD THE BROTHERLY RELATIONS BETWEEN ALL STATES OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY IN A "MAXIMAL" FASHION.

4. THE ND EDITORIAL GOES ON TO LIST THOSE SECTIONS OF THE TREATY TOUCHING ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MENTIONS SUPPORTS FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, THE INVIOABILITY OF STATE BOUNDARIES AS A PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ANCHORED IN THE CSCE DOCUMENT, AND THE RESOLVE OF BOTH SIGNATORIES THAT THIS PRINCIPLES BE APPLIED TO THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE GDR AND FRG, IT FURTHER REFERS TO WEST BERLIN AS "NOT A CONSTITUENT COMPONENT OF THE FRG" AND THUS NOT TO BE GOVERNED BY THE LATTER, AND FINALLY MENTIONS THE TREATY ARTICLE ON COMMON DEFENSE IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK BY ANY THIRD STATE. THE EDITORIAL CLOSES WITH A QUOTE FROM HONECKER'S OCTOBER 6 MOSCOW SPEECH STATING THAT THE GDR'S ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS THE DECIDING GUARANTEE FOR ITS "SOCIALIST PRESENT AND COMMUNIST FUTURE".

5. COMMENT: THE GDR PRESS HAS BEEN UNIMAGINATIVE IN ITS INTERPRETATION OF THE TREATY THUS FAR, MOST LIKELY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RETURN OF THE HONECKER PARTY TO EAST BERLIN TO SPELL OUT THE TREATY'S SIGNIFICANCE TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. IN ONE AREA, HOWEVER, THE GDR MEDIA APPARENTLY FEELS ON SURER GROUND: ITS SERVILE ADULATION OF THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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